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**Selected Speeches  
and News Releases**

**October 20 - October 27, 1988**

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# News Releases

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Information

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Oct. 21, through 12:00 midnight Thursday, Oct. 27.

Since the AWP is less than the 1987-crop and 1988-crop base quality loan rates of 52.25 and 51.80 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate for 1987-crop and 1988-crop upland cotton during this period is equal to.

Since the AWP is above the 1986-crop base quality loan repayment rate of 44 cents per pound, no first handler certificates will be issued during this period.

Because the loan repayment rate for 1988-crop upland cotton in effect during this period is less than the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo loan eligibility on their 1988-crop upland cotton. The payment rate for cotton sold during this period will equal the difference between the loan rate and the loan repayment rate.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Based on data for the week ending Oct. 20, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

#### Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price ..... 58.13

#### Adjustments:

Average U.S. spot market location ..... 11.01

SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton ..... 2.00

Average U.S. location ..... .42

Sum of Adjustments ..... -13.43

ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE ..... 44.70 cents/lb.

#### Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price ..... 58.13

Northern Europe Coarse Count Price ..... -58.83

3.89

Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton ..... -4.15

-2.36

COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT ..... 0.15 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made Oct. 27.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

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## USDA's COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH SERVICE CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research Service today announced inauguration of a lecture series concerned with science in the public service as part of its centennial year celebration.

CSRS Administrator John Patrick Jordan said Dr. John Fredrick Fulkerson will deliver the first lecture, "Proud Past—Fantastic Future," today at 2 p.m. in the Monet Ballroom, L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C.

Fulkerson served as principal scientist for CSRS from 1960 until his retirement this year. His work encompassed plant pathology, nematology and biotechnology.



In commemorating 100 years of science working for agriculture, Jordan said, “The first century of the state agricultural experiment station system has yielded nothing less than a scientific revolution.”

He listed major research accomplishments of the state-federal partnership. Among them are hybrid crops, specially adapted animals, labor saving equipment, improved cultural practices, vaccines against diseases, and growth- enhancing chemicals which protect plants from pests.

Jordan sees these achievements as, “cornerstones for the discoveries yet to be made,” and cites biotechnology as a tool for the future in solving challenges facing both society and agricultural research.

In October, 1888 Congress directed the USDA Office of Experiment Stations, the predecessor of CSRS, to encourage research in the newly established state agricultural experiment station system. Since then, CSRS has maintained the tradition of unique state/federal cooperation for the advancement of U.S. agriculture.

Jane Ross (202) 447-2929

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## **USDA PROPOSES REVISIONS IN CITRUS CANCER REGULATIONS**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing federal regulations that will reduce some restrictions on interstate movement of citrus fruit from all areas of Florida, except where Asiatic strains of citrus canker have been found in the last two years.

Citrus canker is a bacterial plant disease that attacks leaves, twigs and fruit of many types of citrus. Two types of canker bacteria are found in Florida—nursery strains and the more virulent Asiatic strains.

“We believe the current regulations, designed to prevent the spread of virulent forms of citrus canker, go beyond what is necessary and hurt citrus growers in areas of Florida not affected by Asiatic citrus canker,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. “The proposal follows four years of study and is based on scientific data and field observations indicating that the Florida nursery strains are extremely unlikely either to infect mature citrus trees or fruit in groves or damage fruit,” he said.

APHIS assembled a scientific panel of nine university plant pathologists in March to review the data and consider questions on the biology and

classification of the Florida nursery strains. The panel's report was published in the June 28 Federal Register as part of the advance notice to solicit public comment on how APHIS should revise the citrus canker regulations.

Glosser said the public was asked to consider three options: (1) reduce the quarantined area in Florida to include only those areas where Asiatic strains have been found in the past two years; (2) reduce restrictions on interstate movement of citrus from all areas of Florida except where Asiatic strains have been found in the last two years; and (3) maintain the regulations as they are.

After reviewing the panel's report, the current citrus canker eradication program, and comments from the public, APHIS is proposing to revise the regulations in line with option 2. "This option would continue to provide protection against the interstate spread of the Florida nursery strains," Glosser said.

Glosser said the revisions also would allow certain plants that are highly resistant to citrus canker and that are grown outside the area where the Asiatic strains have been found, to be moved interstate under less stringent conditions than at present and to all areas of the United States except commercial citrus-producing areas. The current prohibition against moving citrus plants from areas of Florida affected by Asiatic citrus canker would be maintained.

The proposal would also prohibit the interstate movement of wampi plants from any area of Florida because these plants are now known to be hosts to the bacterium that causes citrus canker.

The proposed revisions will be published in today's Federal Register. Written comments (an original and three copies) must be postmarked no later than Nov. 21, and mailed to: Regulatory Analysis and Development, APHIS, USDA, Room 728 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Rd., Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Written comments should refer to Docket No. 88-105.

Comments received may be reviewed by the public at USDA, Room 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Marlene Stinson (301) 436-7799

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## **USDA PROPOSES REVISIONS IN RICE STANDARDS**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service today announced it is proposing to revise the standards for rough rice by adding a separate category for heat-damaged kernels and redefining the special grade "weevily" to the more inclusive term "infested."

FGIS also is proposing to revise the standards for rough rice, brown rice for processing, and milled rice by: (1) incorporating insect infestation tolerances into the standards; (2) revising the rounding procedures to more generally accepted mathematical procedures; (3) eliminating many footnotes and footnote references throughout the standards and incorporating this information into the text; and (4) making other miscellaneous nonsubstantive changes to simplify the standards and provide uniform provisions and language in the standards.

Notice of these proposed changes will be published in the Oct. 26 Federal Register. Public comments may be submitted by Nov. 25 to Lewis Lebakken, Jr., USDA, FGIS, P.O. Box 96454, Room 0632-S, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454; telephone (202) 475-3428.

Allen Atwood (202) 475-3367

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## **FmHA FALL FARM BORROWERS URGED TO SIGN UP FOR INSURANCE**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21—Winter growers seeking Farmers Home Administration emergency loans, based on this year's drought, should immediately determine if they are required to purchase crop insurance for next year, said Roland R. Vautour, under secretary of agriculture for small community and rural development.

"This situation arises from a provision in the 1988 Disaster Assistance Act," Vautour said. "With some exceptions, any farmer who lost more than 65 percent of his normal production must agree to obtain insurance for 1989 crops as a condition for obtaining FmHA emergency loans to help cover 1988 losses."

Also, to qualify for any FmHA emergency loans offered as a result of damage to 1989 crops, farmers must have purchased insurance on those crops if it is available.

The open season for obtaining multi-peril crop insurance for winter crops now being planted expires Oct. 31, with the exception of some specific Northwestern states where the expiration date is Nov. 30. Thus, farmers need to make this decision immediately, Vautour said. Some extensions to the deadline may be granted on an individual basis. Proof of insurance will be required before the disaster loan applications can be processed.

Exceptions to the insurance requirement include cases where insurance is not available and where premium costs would impose an undue financial hardship as determined by the FmHA county committee.

The deadlines for signing up for crop insurance are critical, Vautour said. "We urge everyone putting in a crop with FmHA financing this fall to get in touch with their local insurance representative immediately."

Ron Ence (202) 447-4323

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## USDA AMENDS HORSE PROTECTION RULES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced new interim rules, effective today, that will continue the current prohibitions against the use of heel pads of more than one inch in yearling horses.

Heel pads are used to build up horses' hooves to alter their gait for the show ring.

In an interim rule published July 28, amending the Horse Protection Regulations, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service eliminated regulations that phased down the maximum pad height to one inch and in their place established restrictions on pad height based on the length of a horse's natural foot.

Under the July 28 provisions, the pad height on some horses may exceed one inch, and this could be injurious to yearling horses. Inadvertantly, APHIS retained language from the earlier rule that would have ended the limitation on pad height for yearling horses after Oct. 31.

"Limiting the height of heel pads used on yearlings is necessary because the immature development of the young horses' limbs makes higher pads potentially harmful to them," according to James W. Glosser, APHIS administrator. "APHIS is removing the language in the regulations that would have terminated this restriction after Oct. 31,"



Glosser said.

APHIS administers the Horse Protection Act, passed in 1970 to eliminate the practice of “soring.” Soring is the use of cruel methods, devices or chemical substances on a horse’s legs or feet that can reasonably be expected to cause a horse to experience pain when walking. Soring is done primarily to alter a horse’s gait for the show ring.

The new interim rule is scheduled for publication in today’s Federal Register. Written comments (an original and three copies) must be postmarked no later than Nov. 23 and mailed to: Regulatory Analysis and Development, APHIS, USDA, Room 728, Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Written comments should refer to Docket No. 88-160.

Bonnie Aikman (301) 436-7799

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## **SCS HALFWAY THROUGH CONSERVATION PLANNING FOR 1985 FARM BILL**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24—The halfway mark has been passed in developing conservation plans required under the Food Security Act of 1985, according to Wilson Scaling, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Soil Conservation Service. Conservation plans have been completed for 75.3 million acres, 53 percent of the estimated 143 million acres of highly erodible cropland needing plans.

“Our goal is to have 65 percent of the plans completed by the end of 1988,” Scaling said, “and the remaining 35 percent completed by the end of 1989. We are right on target, but I urge farmers to act now if they have highly erodible land that needs a conservation plan.”

Scaling said it is SCS’s job to help farmers significantly reduce erosion on their cropland and stay in business. “It’s a mistake to postpone requesting a conservation plan until the last minute,” he said, “because by then there may be a long wait for the technical help to develop it.”

To stay eligible for USDA programs, farmers and ranchers who farm erodible cropland must have a conservation plan approved by Dec. 31, 1989. They have until Dec. 31, 1994, to implement the plan. To date, conservation plans have been implemented on 21.7 million acres, 15 percent of the affected land.

The following table summarizes state-by-state amounts of highly erodible acreage, percentages of acreage determinations completed, percentages of conservation plans completed and the percentages of plans currently implemented.

### Progress Summary, Conservation Plans as Required by 1985 Food Security Act

(as of Oct. 1, 1988)

State	Total Highly Erodible Land (H.E.L.)*	H.E.L. Acreage Determinations Completed*	H.E.L. Plans Completed	H.E.L. Plans Implemented
	<i>(acres)</i>	<i>(% of Total H.E.L. Acres)</i>		
Alabama	1,741,073	93	70	13
Alaska	49,584	100	94	32
Arizona	988,424	100	73	59
Arkansas	512,160	99	53	23
California	1,858,996	64	32	6
Colorado	9,150,000	88	60	19
Connecticut	13,496	100	74	5
Delaware	10,423	100	74	16
Florida	221,947	74	54	29
Georgia	1,083,784	100	52	28
Hawaii	62,926	100	37	0
Idaho	3,537,500	78	50	16
Illinois	4,900,000	88	57	6
Indiana	2,687,829	100	48	11
Iowa	12,102,300	89	56	12
Kansas	12,962,291	100	68	10
Kentucky	4,200,000	74	39	14
Louisiana	230,000	78	43	18
Maine	150,000	73	54	31
Maryland	299,777	100	77	8

Massachusetts	16,452	93	70	14
Michigan	626,000	86	57	16
Minnesota	2,100,000	93	48	27
Mississippi	1,610,043	95	45	18
Missouri	5,959,774	98	39	19
Montana	13,700,000	57	51	16
Nebraska	9,709,152	87	53	20
Nevada	105,548	80	70	54
New Hampshire	5,952	100	72	9
New Jersey	70,687	100	62	4
New Mexico	1,400,000	90	53	19
New York	1,020,000	88	63	20
North Carolina	1,202,400	81	49	6
North Dakota	6,705,384	65	32	7
Ohio	1,709,662	100	58	8
Oklahoma	4,712,495	100	43	11
Oregon	1,927,000	93	43	27
Pennsylvania	1,581,963	100	59	8
Puerto Rico	4,000	56	31	27
Rhode Island	236	100	53	28
South Carolina	417,360	75	52	21
South Dakota	3,949,384	100	53	13
Tennessee	2,513,100	74	51	9
Texas	15,586,182	70	50	17
Utah	564,000	85	72	56
Vermont	70,602	100	62	11
Virginia	987,567	100	56	8
Washington	3,500,000	99	54	14
West Virginia	66,293	100	75	12
Wisconsin	3,292,288	72	39	22
Wyoming	804,500	90	70	46
TOTAL	142,680,534	84	53	15

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\*/ Total H.E.L. acreages are estimates. SCS is conducting H.E.L. acreage determinations in each state to ascertain final acreage on



individual farms requiring conservation plans. The percentages listed in the table are the percentages of estimated total H.E.L. acres.

Leslie Wilder (202) 447-3608

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard W. Goldberg today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 10.13 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 9.30 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 9.21 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 5.07 cents per pound.

Minimum loan repayment rates for 1987-crop loans are the higher of the world price or 50 percent of the loan rate. For 1988-crop rice, the minimum repayment rates are the higher of the world price or 60 percent of the loan rate.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$6.10 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$5.79 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$5.61 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3:00 P.M. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Nov. 1, 1988 at 3:00 P.M. EST, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

Gene Rosera (202) 447-5954

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## **USDA TOBACCO GRADERS RECEIVE SALARY RISE**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that salaries of some seasonal tobacco graders will be increased by 13 to 20 percent.

According to Kenneth A. Gilles, USDA's assistant secretary for marketing and inspection services, tobacco graders at the GS-5 and GS-7

grade levels will receive a 20-percent pay increase, and those at the GS-9 level will receive a 13-percent increase. The pay increases will be effective Nov. 6, he said.

USDA had petitioned the Office of Personnel Management on Aug. 25 for 20-percent, across-the-board increases for tobacco graders at the GS-5 through GS-12 grade levels, Gilles said. While OPM did not approve an increase for the GS-11 and GS-12 graders, they will receive the same 4.1-percent pay raise other federal employees receive Jan. 1, 1989.

“This pay increase will make it easier for USDA to recruit and maintain its quality tobacco grading workforce,” Gilles said. “These employees possess the high professional standards of service the industry has received and expected from USDA’s tobacco grading workforce.”

Nearly 260 tobacco graders within USDA’s Agricultural Marketing Service grade for quality approximately 98 percent of tobacco produced in the United States.

George Clarke (202) 447-8998

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